**Constructing Worksheets That Cater To YOU.**

There’s that famous saying that teachers should “work smarter, not harder.” In contrast to this popular belief, I’ve often found myself struggling much more to find worksheets that work symbiotically with the lessons I’ve created over this semester.

Though creating your own worksheets may require just a bit more effort on your part, it’s worth all the benefits.

* *Students learn best when they are given a chance to interact with your personalized supplemental material.*
* *The lesson makes sense when your students are held accountable for a product to complete within a given amount of class time.*
* *The worksheets cater to YOUR lesson plans; your lessons should not revolve around a worksheet created specifically for another person’s lesson plan.*
* *Both you and your students will avoid confusing and/or unnecessary sections in previously-made worksheet.*

It’s really quite simple to create your own worksheets once you’ve gotten into the habit of constructing them. Here are a few useful tips to keep in mind.

1. Use your skills in backward planning. Before you create any questions, prompts, or instructions for activities, think first of what you’d like the students to learn by completing this worksheet.
2. Create those questions, prompts, and/or activity instructions to encourage higher-order thinking. “Yes or no” answers should be limited to surveys and questionnaires.
3. Include an essential questions or debriefing section toward the end of the worksheet to have students reflect on what they’ve learned overall.
4. Offer plenty of space for writing. Students should focus on the objectives of the worksheet; not the unnecessarily narrow space provided for their responses.
5. If times allows, take the opportunity to make the worksheet aesthetically pleasing. This can include anything from font, images, tables, lines to write on, etc.